

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An inserter system comprising:
  - a plurality of modules for accumulating and assembling sheets into mail pieces; and
  - a controller computer coupled to the plurality of modules and controlling assembly of mail pieces in accordance with predetermined instructions, the controller computer receiving status data from the plurality of modules; the controller computer including one or more software based data processing objects processing the status data to determine inserter status, the data processing objects passing processed status data directly to a network protocol object for transmittal, the controller computer further comprising a network port for directly transmitting status data processed by the network protocol object to an external network, and the network port and the network protocol object further accepting incoming requests from the external network, the controller computer transmitting inserter status data in real-time, without need for withdrawal of information from a database or repository in the controller computer.
2. The inserter system of claim 1 wherein the network protocol object is an HTTP web server object and the network port is a TCP/IP port.

3. The inserter system of claim 1 wherein the controller computer is a general purpose computer coupled to the plurality of modules.
4. The inserter system of claim 1 wherein the controller computer is an embedded processor fixed within the plurality of modules.
5. The inserter system of claim 1 wherein the data processing objects includes a parser to select data for transmission responsive to an incoming request from the external network.
6. The inserter system of claim 1 wherein selection of data for transmission occurs in real-time, without need for withdrawal of information from a database or repository in the controller computer.